

Message Text

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47

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 490

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0535

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DA, XF

SUBJECT: THE MIDDLE EAST: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
ANDERSEN

REF: STATE 039254

1. I MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER K. B. ANDERSEN FEBRUARY 24
FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HE SUCCEEDED OVE GULDBERG TEN DAYS
AGO. HE LOOKED FIT, AND HAPPY TO BE BACK AT THE JOB WHICH
HE GAVE UP IN DECEMBER 1973.

2. THE FIRST SUBJECT I RAISED WAS THE MIDDLE EAST. I RE-
VIEWED FOR HIM THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY'S RECENT TRIP
(WHICH THE DEPARTMENT HAD SO ALERTLY PROVIDED ME). ANDER-
SEN WAS MOST GRATEFUL TO HAVE THIS INFORMATION AND SAID THAT
HE GREATLY ADMIRERD AND SUPPORTED THE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS.

3. I ASKED WHETHER THE FOREIGN MINISTER INTENDED TO
VISIT THE MIDDLE EAST HIMSELF. HE REPLIED BY NOTING
THAT HE HAD VISITED EGYPT AND ISRAEL IN LATE 1972 AND THAT
GULDBERG HAD SUBSEQUENTLY VISITED EGYPT, ISRAEL AND SAUDI
ARABIA. HE REVEALED THAT ANKER JORGENSEN AND HE HAD
BEEN INVITED TO CAIRO FOR NEW YEAR'S THIS YEAR BUT HAD
BEEN UNABLE TO GO BECAUSE OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. A
VISIT TO THE AREA, THEREFORE, WAS NOT A TOP PRIORITY WITH
HIM ALTHOUGH HE WOULD LIKE TO GO WHEN HE COULD.

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4. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION, ANDERSEN SAID THAT HE DID NOT FORESEE ANY REAL CHANGE IN DANISH POLICY TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST, ALTHOUGH THERE MIGHT BE SOME NUANCES OF DIFFERENCE WITH THE POLICY OF THE HARTLING GOVERNMENT. HE RECALLED THAT THE DANES HAD TRADITIONALLY BEEN PRO-ISRAEL; WHEN LAST HE WAS FOREIGN MINISTER HE HAD TRIED TO INTRODUCE A MORE NEUTRAL OR BALANCED LINE, AN EFFORT, HE WAS PLEASED TO CONFIRM, WHICH HAD GENERALLY BEEN CONTINUED BY THE HARTLING GOVERNMENT.

5. I INQUIRED AS TO THE STATUS OF THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE ARABS AND THE EC NINE. ANDERSEN SAID THAT AN ATTEMPT WAS BEING MADE TO START THE DIALOGUE AT WHAT HE CALLED THE "EXPERT" LEVEL. THE ARABS WERE INTERESTED BUT SEEMED TO BE HAVING THEIR PROBLEMS. IT APPEARS THAT SECRETARY GENERAL RIAD MAY HAVE GOTTEN OUT A LITTLE IN FRONT OF THE OTHER ARABS. ANDERSEN DID INDICATE THAT THE PARLIAMENTARY FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 21 HAD APPROVED DANISH PARTICIPATION IN THE DIALOGUE.

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